

Had I been here I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 1995

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, January 31, 1995, I was unavoidably detained during rollcall No. 73, and thus my vote on the Collins amendment to H.R. 5, the Unfunded Mandate Reform Act, was not recorded. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on agreeing to the amendment.

PROPOSING A BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

SPEECH OF

HON. FLOYD SPENCE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 1) proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States:

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of a constitutional amendment requiring a balanced budget, and urge my fellow colleagues to do the same.

I introduced legislation requiring a balanced budget constitutional amendment in 1973. Admittedly, much has changed since that time. The necessity for a constitutional budget amendment, however, has not. Indeed, after the astronomical increases in our national deficit in the past years, I would argue that this amendment is even more necessary today. Frankly, we have lost much time since 1973, and we cannot afford to wait any longer.

Thomas Jefferson first proposed the concept of a constitutional limit in the Federal Government's ability to spend and borrow money. At that time, our Government was not shackled with enormous debts and interest payments. At that time, our Government had not mortgaged the futures of our children and grandchildren by replacing fiscal responsibility with fiscal folly.

A constitutional amendment requiring a balanced budget will not single-handedly erase our debt. We will all have to make serious and difficult decisions in the next months. We will drastically cut spending. I would argue, however, that this amendment will provide each of us here with the discipline sufficient to make those tough decisions.

Unlike other statutory schemes enacted in recent years, a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution cannot be changed or repealed by Congress. Upon ratification, Congress and the administration will be forced to enact those choices required to bring Federal spending in line with Federal receipts.

Mr. Chairman, as a veteran of many debates on the merits of a constitutional amendment requiring a balanced budget, I ask that my colleagues join me in strong support of this amendment. It's the right thing to do, and now's the time to do it.

CONGRATULATES THE GUAM GIRL SCOUTS ON THEIR 60TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 1995

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, two troops came to Guam in March 1935 and marched right into the halls of George Washington High School. These were the girls in green, from kindergarten to their senior year of high school, and they became a chartered council of the Girl Scouts of America in 1937. The Guam Girl Scouts now consists of more than 750 active members, and in March 1995 we celebrate their 60th Anniversary on Guahan.

Many districts across the country are blessed with their units of this fine organization. The Guam Girl Scouts in my home district have become assets in every one of our villages and military installations.

The goals of the Girl Scouts program are expressed in four programs, all of which promote higher quality of life on the island. The programs are: Developing Self-Potential, Relating to Others, Developing Values, and Contributing to Society.

The girls work in the community and earn badges by completing activities centered around an interest. The five "Worlds of Interest" in Girl Scouting are the World of Well Being, the World of Out-of-Doors, the World of People, the World of Arts, and the World of Today and Tomorrow.

This year, Guam's Girl Scouts spearheaded the Kobe relief project to aid Japan's earthquake victims. More than 400 volunteer hours were devoted to sorting, counting, packaging, and labeling more than 30,000 items donated from Girl Scouts and Guam's residents.

Guam Girl Scouts also conducted a food drive for Catholic Social Services, participated in the Sugarplum project and collected clothes for Goodwill of Guam, all projects completed in the past year.

Yes, we on Guam are lucky. Our Children can receive an informal education through the Guam Girl Scouts. The girls who join enjoy many fine programs which enhance and extend their abilities and strengths. Our future leaders are getting the best kind of training through services to the community.

COMMEMORATING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR 4693

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 1995

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of the Congress that throughout this great Nation, our Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese-American communities will celebrate the new lunar New Year.

Today, January 31, 1995, marks the year 4693, the Year of the Boar in the Chinese astrological calendar. During this festive season, Korean families will eat their traditional mandukook and duk, the Vietnamese their banh chung and banh tet, and the Chinese their dumplings and precious mooncakes. Families will reunite at homes and at large banquets, and observe traditional rituals which

stretch back centuries in these ancient cultures.

Mr. Speaker, San Francisco is a city built by immigrants who have come to our shores. Each has enriched and invigorated our Nation through their hard work, their family values, and through the cultures and traditions they bring to the American experience. Today, in San Francisco, and other communities throughout the Nation, we should honor the Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese-American communities, and wish them a happy new year.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KWEISI MFUME

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 1995

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, I was, unfortunately, detained in my congressional district in Baltimore earlier today and thus forced to miss a record vote. Specifically, I was not present to record my vote on rollcall vote No. 76, on the amendment offered by Mr. WAXMAN of California.

Had I been here I would have voted "yea."

A TRIBUTE TO FOUR HEROS

HON. HERBERT H. BATEMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 1995

Mr. BATEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of four U.S. Army chaplains, 1st Lts. George L. Fox, Clark V. Poling, John P. Washington, and Alexander D. Goode, each one of different faith, who worked together and gave their lives in an effort to save others in a selfless act of heroism.

Fifty-two years ago, on February 3, 1943, the SS *Dorchester*, an Army transport vessel, was in the North Atlantic en route from St. John's NF, to Narsarsuak, Greenland, transporting 904 passengers, in addition to some cargo. At approximately 3:55 a.m., the *Dorchester* was torpedoed without warning.

The torpedo hit the ship just aft of amidships, near the engine room. The explosion was muffled and there was very little noise, but the concussion was severe. The ship took on water at such a fast rate that in a matter of just 25 minutes, it was lost.

In that short time, it was the bravery of Lieutenants Fox, Poling, Washington and Goode, the four chaplains aboard the *Dorchester*, that saved the lives of many. According to many survivors, the chaplains, with complete disregard for their own safety, quieted the panic of men frozen by fear at the ship's rail, forcing them into boats and lifejackets. They handed out life belts from a box, and when those were gone, they gave their own to enlisted men. Additionally, they helped construct makeshift rafts out of timbers, cork, and other materials at hand. The only concern of these brave men was to do everything they could to save the lives of the others on the transport. Chaplain Goode even gave his gloves to another man, despite the bitter cold, knowing that having those gloves might help him survive. The recipient of the gloves did indeed survive, and